



**Testimony presented by Marcia DuFore**  
**On behalf of North Central Regional Mental Board**  
**Before the Appropriations Committee**  
**Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) budget**  
**March 7, 2016**

**IN OPPOSITION TO**  
**H.B. No. 5499 AN ACT CONCERNING THE PRESERVATION OF HISTORICAL RECORDS AND ACCESS**  
**TO RESTRICTED RECORDS IN STATE ARCHIVES**

Senator Cassano Representative Jutila, and distinguished members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee,

My name is Marcia DuFore. I am writing to you as Executive Director of the North Central Regional Mental Health Board (NCRMHB). Our Board's responsibility is to study the mental health needs of people in our region and assist the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) with setting priorities for improved and expanded services to meet those needs. Our constituents include people who use behavioral health services, their families and concerned citizens in the towns and cities where services are delivered.

We are writing in opposition to section 2 (c) of this bill as it would violate the protections of confidentiality for individuals who have received mental health treatment through the public mental health system after their death. As written this bill would allow access to their private psychiatric records including identifying information without a provision for obtaining their consent during their lifetime or by their family members after their death and prior to disclosure.

We are requesting that the bill be amended to ensure that identifying information, including name, social security number, and address be redacted prior to making records publically available.

Thank you for considering the concerns of our constituents in your deliberations.

Sincerely,

Marcia DuFore  
Executive Director

